

Personal from. . . *Ronald L. Dart*

Should Women Preach?

Should women preach? I know, women have been preaching to their families from the beginning, but that's not what I am asking. I am asking if women should stand before an official assembly of the Church of God, read from the Scriptures and show the meaning of them, as happened in Old Testament times. More important, should they do what Paul told Timothy to do: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:1-2). Or, what he told Titus: "These things speak, and exhort, and *rebuke with all authority*. Let no man despise thee" (Titus 2:15).

Is this a role for women in the church? That is the question. But it is a bigger question than that. At this level, it is a rational question. What do *we* think women are suited to do, what are we prepared to listen to? At a more important level, what is God's intent? What does *He* want women and men to

do or not do in carrying out the work of the church?

Frankly, the Bible sends a mixed message and one not so very easy to resolve. I was browsing a book of essays by C.S. Lewis a few nights ago and came across a fascinating discussion of the problem written at a time when the issue of women priests in the Church of England was being broached. He had some insightful and provocative things to say on the subject and raised one issue I had thought about and one I had not.

While Lewis is speaking from a Church of England perspective, he said two very startling things. He said that we are all feminine before God. And while he acknowledged the failure of male priests, he said the failure of the priests is because they are *not masculine enough*.

I thought the first point was clear enough in that the church is the bride of Christ. The second is clear in the massive failure of the Catholic priesthood in the pedophile scandal. The truly masculine will find nothing sexually appealing in the body of a young man. The truly masculine will not, in his pride, abuse a child, male or female.

But there was another idea that Lewis advanced here that has to be faced. First, he does not argue that women must not preach. He is arguing that they should not hold the pastoral office. As he rightly notes, there are prophetesses in the Bible, women who spoke for God. Miriam, Moses' sister was a prophetess. Deborah, one of the judges of Israel was a prophetess. A woman named Huldah in Josiah's time was a prophetess. Isaiah's wife was a prophetess. In the New Testament, a woman named Anna was a prophetess and was one of the first to see the Baby Jesus. And there are more.

So to whatever extent prophecy is preaching, then women can surely preach. But we haven't solved our problem that simply. In the Old Testament, there was no woman in

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the priesthood. And there were, as far as we can tell, no women in the official body of the elders.

Perhaps by now you can see what I mean when I say that the Bible sends a mixed message. It is a very large topic - much too broad for treatment in a letter, but I have a taped presentation you will surely want to hear. The role of women in the church is a matter for the church to discuss and decide, and you need to be fully armed when the discussion comes up. And it will come up, if it has not already.

To receive a *free* cassette tape of this presentation, entitled "Should Women Preach" just check the box on the enclosed card and send it back to us. The tape is free with no obligation. It is paid for by contributions from our readers and listeners.

God bless you, and keep in touch,

Ronald L. Dart

Large Print Spiral Bound Hymnal

Song leaders, pianist, visually impaired, or anyone else who would like to have an 8 x 11 spiral bound hymnal, we're now offering it for only \$9.95 plus postage. It is a companion to the beautiful new red songbook that has been revised and improved. If you don't already have your hardback copy of the new hymnal you can still get one for the low price of only \$8.95 plus postage. Forty-seven new hymns are included in this new publication. Call 1-888-BIBLE 44 to order.

Good Manners are Morals

Do you remember the book, *Dress for Success*? One was written for men and one for women. The premise is that if you dress the part of an executive your employer is more likely to see you as one. According to McCoy, dressing for success improves your chances of a promotion and maybe even a place in the boardroom. His research also showed that dressing professionally improved job performance.

One reason women were at a disadvantage in climbing the corporate ladder was because of the way they dressed. His thesis was that a woman must clad herself in a business suit to look as capable as her male counterpart. The darker the business suit the more authority your appearance presents and the more likely you are to advance in the work place. If a woman doesn't want to remain in the secretarial pool, she must shed her pastel, floral frocks in favor of grey, navy, or black business suits.

Over the years we've seen a change in what is considered acceptable dress in and out of the workplace. Casual is in and formal is out. Many corporations have set aside one day of the week as "Casual Friday." To some of the tee-shirt jean-loving, laid back employees, casual means dressing sloppy.

Along with this attitude came a decline in good manners, a respect for authority, and morals. Since children imitate what they see adults do, and rarely become better than they are taught in word and example, they become like their role models. "A recent Public Agenda survey found that 84 percent of the respondents think parents are failing to teach respect to children. It's a serious problem, and people want things to change" (*The Washington Times*, November 25-December 1, 2002).

What used to be the norm is rare indeed today. Just a few decades ago children were taught to say "yes sir" and "no ma'am" and to address their elders as Mr. or Mrs. Men opened the door for ladies. But not much any more. Today you'll see a lady open the door while men and children push through before her. Men used to take off their hats when entering a building. Today it's common to see men and boys eating in franchise restaurants with their hats or baseball caps on. It has now been added to the Bailiff's duties to ask all the men who are sitting in the courtroom with their hats on to remove them, as a matter of respect.

In years gone by conversations were riddled with gracious words of please, would you mind, and thank you. Some 40

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years ago when we moved to England, we were struck with how often the British said “thank you very much.” They said it so often they created a way of abbreviating it to “ta muchly.” These generous gratitudes made some of the small aggravations of adjusting to living in a foreign land more tolerable. A simple thank you is overlooked so many times when it makes life more pleasant for the deserving recipient.

Today we’re encountering more and more rudeness on the road, in checkout lines, on the job, and in the home. All you have to do is make one plane trip, go to the grocery store, or to the mall, and you’ll fast see this decline in good manners. It’s obvious that we haven’t become a kinder, gentler, a more moral, or even a better dressed people. To say the least, short tempers, foul language,

pushing, shoving, and rude behavior are not good manners. These are the things that lead to hard feelings, family breakups, road rage, gun battles, and killings. Somewhere or somehow, people lost the importance of practicing good manners in every aspect of their daily lives. Has one thing led to another? Has the way we dress had any impact on our manners? Has the domino effect carried though to our nation’s morals?

So what are good manners? “The fact is, however, that *manners are morals*. They’re ways of respecting other people” (*Raising Good Children*). “Civility, courtesy and consideration are the ‘outward expression of fundamental human decency,’” said Emily Post.

It’s never too early for a parent to model good manners before their children. A two year old should learn to say “please” and “thank you.” They should learn that it is not socially correct, nor considerate of other

people to throw a temper tantrum in public. Acceptable manners will become important to your children only as they are important to you. Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.

There is no better place to begin learning manners and morals than from the Bible. Basic Christianity carries the responsibility of being mannerly, for manners are love, kindness, gentleness, and preferring another to yourself. Paul told us in Ephesians 4:32 -5:2 to “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” These are manners that will impact our morals.

IT’S ALMOST TIME!

By Billy Richardson

In just a short time we will be traveling to the Feast—ready to worship God, hear His Word taught, sing His praises, fellowship with one another, and participate in the fun activities that are planned! One of the best and most rewarding experiences the teens and youth can look forward to is participating in YEA classes and Youth Day. Our children are the future of the Church and CEM puts great effort to prepare them for that future. Please encourage your teens and youth to take advantage of all that there will be at the Feast for them. . . and then plan on everyone being there for Youth Day, Friday the 16th, as they conduct the service from beginning to end! This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth and teens to learn together, to make lasting friendships, and to grow in God’s way of life. Can’t wait to see you there!

Daily Radio

The *Born to Win* broadcast can be heard daily on these stations:

- Birmingham, Alabama**
11:15 a.m. daily - WDJC 850 AM
- Huntsville, Alabama**
9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. daily
WBXR 1140 AM
- Mobile, Alabama**
9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. daily
WMOB 1360 AM
- Montgomery, Alabama**
8:30 a.m. daily - WAPZ 1250 AM
- Phoenix, Arizona**
8:30 p.m. daily - KPXQ 1360 AM
- Little Rock, Arkansas**
5:30 p.m. & 5:15 a.m. daily
KAAY 1090 AM
- San Francisco, California**
2:03 p.m. & 11:30 p.m. daily
KDIS 1640 AM
- 1:00 p.m. daily - KCBC 770 AM
- Denver, Colorado**
5:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. daily
KLT 670 AM
- Deland, Florida**
6:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. daily
WYND 1310 AM
- Pensacola, Florida**
7:00 a.m. daily - WASG 550 AM
7:00 a.m. daily - WZNO 1230 AM
- Atlanta, Georgia**
10:30 a.m. daily - WGKA 1190 AM
- Augusta, Georgia**
9:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. daily
WFAM 1050 AM
- Kansas City, Kansas**
6:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. daily
KCNW 1380 AM
- London, Kentucky**
12:00 noon daily - WGWM 980 AM
- Richmond, Kentucky**
12:30 p.m. daily - WCBR 1110 AM
- Gretna, Louisiana**
4:30 a.m. daily - WLNO 1060 AM
- Denton, Maryland**
8:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. daily
WKDI 840 AM
- Jackson, Mississippi**
7:00 a.m. daily - WTWZ 1120 AM
- Omaha, Nebraska**
3:30 p.m. daily - KLNG 1560 AM
- Buffalo, New York**
4:30 a.m. daily - WDCX 99.5 FM
- Asheville, North Carolina**
4:00 p.m. daily - WSKY 1230 AM
- Portland, Oregon**
12:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. daily
KKPZ 1330 AM

Calendar Of Events

September 27th - Feast of Trumpets - Terrell, Texas

Ronald L. Dart will be speaking in Terrell, Texas for The Feast of Trumpets services on Saturday, September 27th. Services will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 503 W. College, in Terrell. Services will begin at 2:00 and there will be a potluck meal immediately following services. If you need more information, please contact either Ralph Collins, in Fort Worth, at (817) 246-1874 or Faye Brown at the CEM office at (903) 509-2999.

October 6th - Day of Atonement - Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

Ronald L. Dart will be speaking in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida for services on the Day of Atonement, Monday, October 6th, at 2:00 P.M. Services will be held at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway, in the Sunset Rooms 1 & 2. Please contact Gary or Shirley George at (850) 837-0485 for information or directions.

Daily Radio

- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
4:30 p.m. & 12:30 p.m. daily
WWNL 1080 AM
- Anderson, South Carolina**
9:00 a.m. daily - WRIX 1020 AM
- Charleston, South Carolina**
7:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. daily
WZJY 1480 AM
- Greenville, South Carolina**
11:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. daily
WELP 1360 AM
- Chattanooga, Tennessee**
5:00 p.m. daily - WLMR 1450 AM
- Knoxville, Tennessee**
4:30 p.m. daily WITA 1490 AM
- Dallas, Texas**
10:30 a.m. daily - KSKY 660 AM
- The following stations
broadcast daily at 2:30 p.m.**
- Moses Lake, Washington**
KTAC 93.9 FM
- Pasco, Washington**
KGDN 101.3 FM
- Spokane, Washington**
KSPQ 106.5 FM
- Wenatchee, Washington**
KTBI 810 AM
- Yakima, Washington**
KYAK 930 AM



Tune in for the latest weekly broadcast.

September 13 - September 19

Who's Who In Prophecy II

September 20 - September 26

Expectations of Marriage

September 27 - October 3

Living Together

October 4 - October 10

The Judging of Kobe Bryant

October 11 - October 17

For The Children

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That the man of God may be proficient and equipped for every good work.